



PCT/GB 2004 / 0 0 2 7 3 4



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Patent Office
Concept House
Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ

**PRIORITY
DOCUMENT**
SUBMITTED OR TRANSMITTED IN
COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 17.1(a) OR (b)

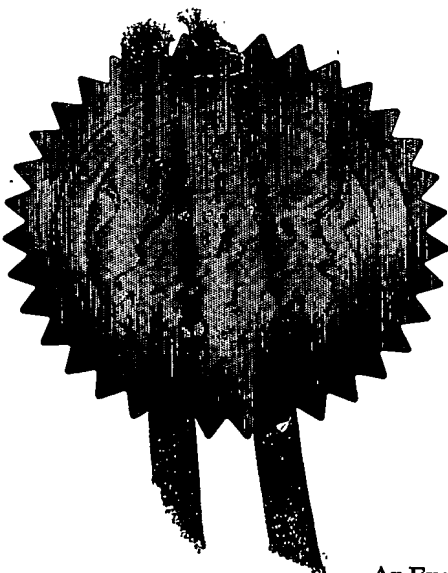
REC'D 22 JUL 2004
WIPO PCT

I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation & Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein.

In accordance with the Patents (Companies Re-registration) Rules 1982, if a company named in this certificate and any accompanying documents has re-registered under the Companies Act 1980 with the same name as that with which it was registered immediately before re-registration save for the substitution as, or inclusion as, the last part of the name of the words "public limited company" or their equivalents in Welsh, references to the name of the company in this certificate and any accompanying documents shall be treated as references to the name with which it is so re-registered.

In accordance with the rules, the words "public limited company" may be replaced by p.l.c., plc, P.L.C. or PLC.

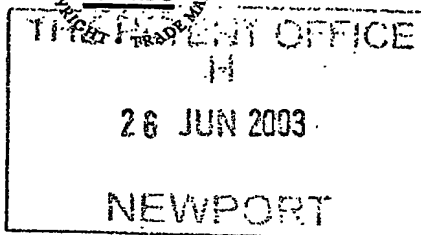
Re-registration under the Companies Act does not constitute a new legal entity but merely subjects the company to certain additional company law rules.



R. Mahoney

Signed

Dated 12 July 2004



27JUN03 E018114-1 000239
P01/7700 0.00-0314921.8

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ

Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

1. Your reference

CNP12966B

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0314921.8

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

Venture One (IP) Limited
151 St. Vincent Street
Glasgow
G2 5NJ

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

8593881001
United Kingdom

4. Title of the invention

Improved Animal Faeces Collector Device

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

Cruikshank & Fairweather

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

19 Royal Exchange Square
Glasgow, G1 3AE
Scotland, UK

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

547002 ✓

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
(if you know it)

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

Yes

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
 - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
 - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
- See note (d))

Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form. Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form -

Description 8 -

Claim(s) -

Abstract -

Drawing(s) 1 + 1 *JML*

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents -

Translations of priority documents -

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (*Patents Form 7/77*) -

Request for preliminary examination and search (*Patents Form 9/77*) -

Request for substantive examination (*Patents Form 10/77*) -

Any other documents (please specify) -

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

Campbell Newell
For Mr Newell

Date

25th June 2003

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Mr Campbell Newell - 0131 225 4500

Warning

After an application for a patent has been filed, the Comptroller of the Patent Office will consider whether publication or communication of the invention should be prohibited or restricted under Section 22 of the Patents Act 1977. You will be informed if it is necessary to prohibit or restrict your invention in this way. Furthermore, if you live in the United Kingdom, Section 23 of the Patents Act 1977 stops you from applying for a patent abroad without first getting written permission from the Patent Office unless an application has been filed at least 6 weeks beforehand in the United Kingdom for a patent for the same invention and either no direction prohibiting publication or communication has been given, or any such direction has been revoked.

Notes

- If you need help to fill in this form or you have any questions, please contact the Patent Office on 08459 500505.*
- Write your answers in capital letters using black ink or you may type them.*
- If there is not enough space for all the relevant details on any part of this form, please continue on a separate sheet of paper and write "see continuation sheet" in the relevant part(s). Any continuation sheet should be attached to this form.*
- If you have answered 'Yes' Patents Form 7/77 will need to be filed.*
- Once you have filled in the form you must remember to sign and date it.*
- For details of the fee and ways to pay please contact the Patent Office.*

Improved Animal Faeces Collector Device

The present invention relates to an improved device for catching and containing animal faeces, particularly dog faeces.

5

International Publication No. WO 96/07317 (in the name of inventor John Charles Mark LANGLEY and assigned to the applicant for the present invention) discloses a dog faeces collector which has significant practical and economic advantages over
10 previously known dog faeces collectors. The device disclosed in WO 96/07317 describes a device having a collapsible elongate handle provided at a distal end with a receptacle having an upwardly facing deposition surface which, in a deployed condition, is formed and arranged for receiving a faecal
15 deposit. The elongate handle is formed and arranged so as to be collapsible into a highly compact pocketable form in a collapsed state of the device and can be deployed to a substantially self-supporting state in a deployed empty state of the device. In particular the invention is based upon the recognition, for the
20 first time, that the handle and receptacle support means may have a load bearing capability just sufficient for bearing, in cantilevered support, an empty receptacle and which is substantially insufficient for bearing, in cantilevered support, the turning moment exerted by the faecally loaded receptacle.
25 In a preferred embodiment described in WO 96/07317 the handle and receptacle support means are inflatable.

WO 96/07317 describes the use of a "security means" in the form of a closure means such as a cover or, preferably, a draw string or like means for drawing in together the rim or support means
5 of the receptacle over the contents (faeces) of the receptacle. In the specific embodiment described therein the draw string passes down through the handle and around the inflated
receptacle support such that when the draw string is pulled the rim portion for supporting the receptacle "draws the centre
10 portion 12 of the tube 2 together so as to cover over the contents 32 of the bag 14 sealing them inside so that a user may safely and hygienically dispose of the device 1 and the contents contained therein".

15 What the inventor of the present invention has identified is that whilst the arrangement described above and in WO 96/07317 functions perfectly well, from a manufacturing and economic point of view use of an additional component part, in the form of a drawstring, is less than desirable.

20

It is an object of the present invention to avoid or minimise one or more of the foregoing limitations.

The present invention provides an animal faeces collector device
25 comprising a collapsible elongate handle means provided at a distal end with a receptacle support means supporting a

receptacle having an upwardly facing deposition surface in a deployed condition of the device for receiving a faecal deposit thereon, said elongate handle means and said receptacle support means being formed and arranged for supporting the receptacle in
5 empty and faecally loaded conditions thereof, and said elongate handle means, said receptacle support means and said receptacle being formed and arranged so as to be collapsible into a highly compact pocketable form in a collapsed state of the device, and to be deployable to a substantially self supporting state in a
10 deployed empty state of the device, said device being of lightweight form of construction with said handle means and said receptacle support means formed and arranged so as to have a load bearing capability, at least in use of the device, which is just sufficient for bearing, in cantilevered support, the
15 turning moment exerted by said handle means and said receptacle in an empty condition for enabling substantially positive remote manipulation of said empty receptacle into a faeces-receiving position on the ground substantially below an animal's anus in use of the device; said handle means and receptacle support
20 means being formed and arranged with a tensile strength and substantially restricted rigidity and a lightness of construction, to maximise collapsibility into a highly compact pocketable form and to facilitate easy and economic disposability of the device, and which load bearing capability
25 is substantially insufficient for bearing, in cantilevered support, the turning moment exerted by the receptacle in a

faecally loaded condition thereof; whilst enabling the receptacle to be captively suspended in a faecally loaded condition thereof by said handle means for conveyance of the faecally loaded device to a disposal site, in use of the device, 5 characterised in that in said deployed condition of the device said receptacle is supported substantially equally around the receptacle support means by a rim portion and that said rim portion of said receptacle may move on said receptacle support means from a first position with said deposition surface of said 10 receptacle in said upwardly facing orientation to a second position on a portion of said receptacle support means with said deposition surface loaded with faeces and the rim portion of said receptacle collected together over the contents of the receptacle.

15 Thus with the animal faeces collector device according to the present invention the weight of faeces contained within the receptacle causes the rim portion of the receptacle to slide down on the receptacle support means when the device is 20 suspended in a faecally loaded condition.

Preferably said device is formed and arranged so as to be inflatable from said collapsed state to said substantially self-supporting state. Desirably said receptacle is supported 25 equally around the receptacle support means by said rim portion such that it may move from said first position to said second

position in an inflated, deflated or partially deflated condition of the device.

Preferably the receptacle is provided with a foot engagement
5 portion, desirably adjacent to the end of said elongate handle means, for engaging with the underside of a user's foot so as to allow the raising of the handle and the receptacle support means up from the ground (whilst retaining the receptacle substantially on the ground) so that the receptacle slides from
10 said first position where it is supported equally around the receptacle support means to said second position wherein the rim portion of the receptacle collects together over the contents of receptacle and is supported on only a portion of said receptacle support means (which may be in an inflated, deflated or
15 partially deflated state).

Preferably there is used in the construction of the inflatable device, a light, flexible, waterproof material such as plastic sheet material for instance polyvinylchloride, polyamide,
20 polyalkene, polyethylene. Desirably there is used a biodegradable material to facilitate environmentally acceptable disposal of the closed receptacle with the faecal matter contained therein.

25 Preferably said deposition surface when in said deployed condition has a diameter of from 5 cm to 30 cm, desirably 10 cm

to 20 cm, though it will be appreciated that the size and shape required will depend to a large extent on the size of the dog and of the faecal deposits generally produced by such a dog. Various shapes of deposition surface may be used, for example, circular, oval, triangular or sectoral. It will be appreciated that the shape of the deposition surface will be dictated substantially by the shape of the receptacle support means.

Further preferred features and advantages of the present invention will appear from the following detailed description given by way of example of a preferred embodiment illustrated with reference to the accompanying drawings in which: -
Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a dog faeces collector device in an inflated self supporting state; and
Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the device after use in a collapsed condition

Reference is first made to Fig. 1 and Fig. 1a which shows a dog faeces collector device of the invention generally indicated by reference number 1. In more detail the device 1 comprises a collapsible elongate handle 2 provided at a distal end 4 with a receptacle support ring 6 (shown partially in dashed line) for supporting a receptacle 8 having an upwardly facing deposition surface 10. The handle 2 and the receptacle support ring are formed from two inflatable tubes. In the inflated condition shown in Fig. 1 the receptacle 8 is supported on the receptacle

-7-

support ring 6 by a rim portion 12. In more detail the rim portion 12 of the receptacle 8 comprises an elongate tube 14 which runs around the top of the receptacle 8 and through which said receptacle support ring 6 passes. The rim portion 12 is not fixed to the receptacle support ring 6 but may move slidably thereon (likened to a curtain on a curtain rail). In the inflated condition shown in Fig. 1 the receptacle 8 is supported equally around the receptacle support ring 6 by the rim portion 12 so as to define the deposition surface 10 on the receptacle 8.

The handle 2 and receptacle support ring 6 comprise two inflatable tubes which are inflated through a mouthpiece 16 at the top 18 of the handle 2. The handle 2 itself comprises two side by side tubes (indicated by a dashed line) which at the distal end 4 of the handle 2 split to form the receptacle support ring 6. The ends of both tubes are connected together 20.

Also shown in Fig. 1 is a foot engagement strap 22 which is attached to the receptacle 8. The foot engagement strap 22 provides a means for holding the receptacle 8 down whilst the handle 2 is pulled upwardly thereby causing the receptacle support ring 6 to be partially withdrawn from within the rim portion 12 of the receptacle 8 and thereby causing the rim portion 12 to collect together and slide down (shown by arrows A

in Fig. 2) over the receptacle support ring 6 towards the portion 20 where the two inflatable tubes of the receptacle support ring 6 are joined. The receptacle 8 is then captively held by the end of the support ring 6.

5

Fig. 2 shows the device of Fig. 1 with faeces 24 contained within the receptacle 8 and the rim portion 12 of the receptacle 8 collected in on itself (like an open curtain) covering over the contents and being supported at the end of the receptacle support ring 6 (which may be in an inflated, partially inflated or deflated condition).

10

Various modifications may be made to the above-described embodiment without departing from the scope of the present invention.

15

111

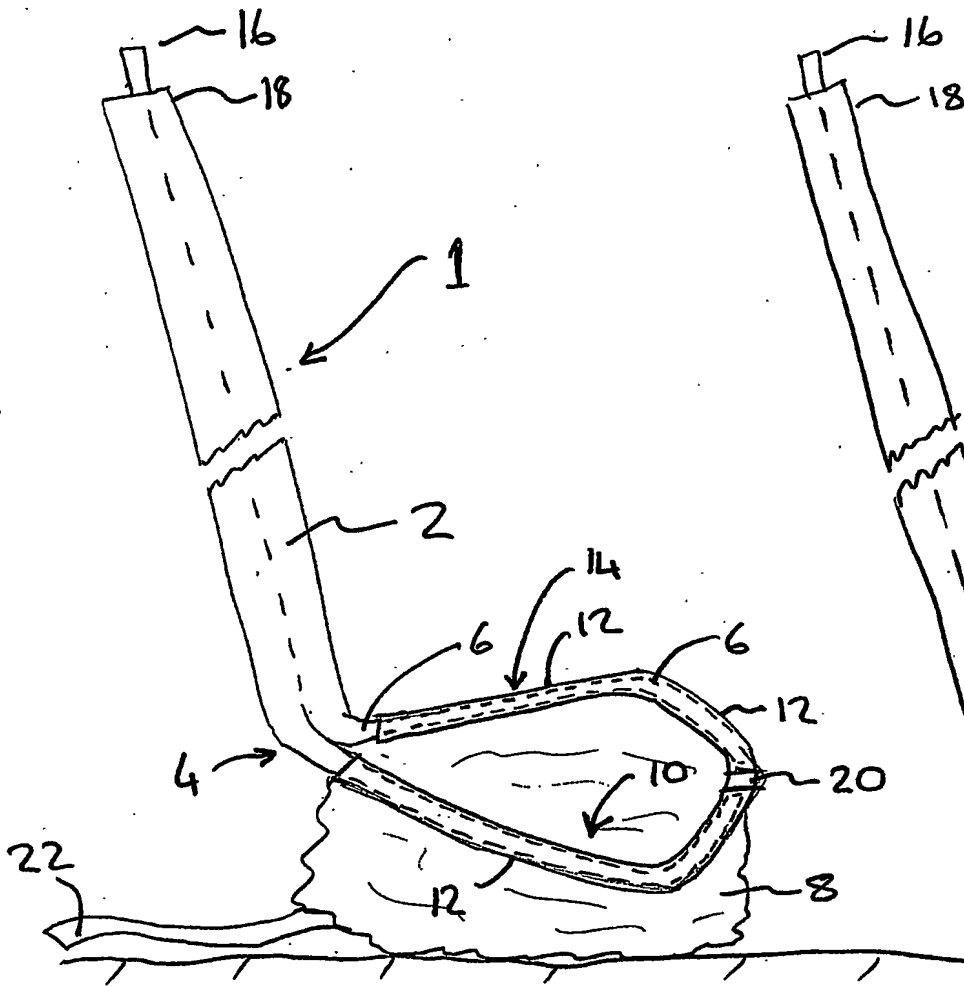


Fig 1

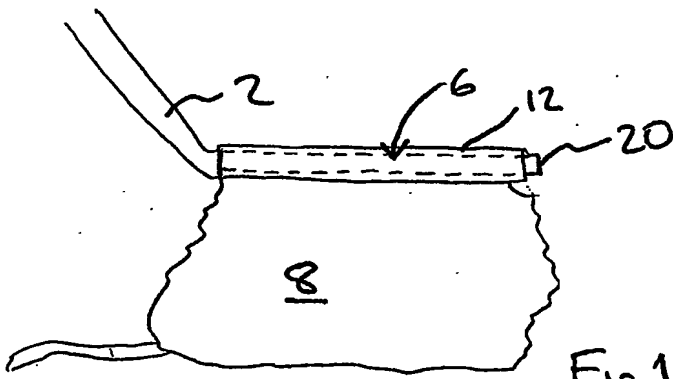


Fig 1a

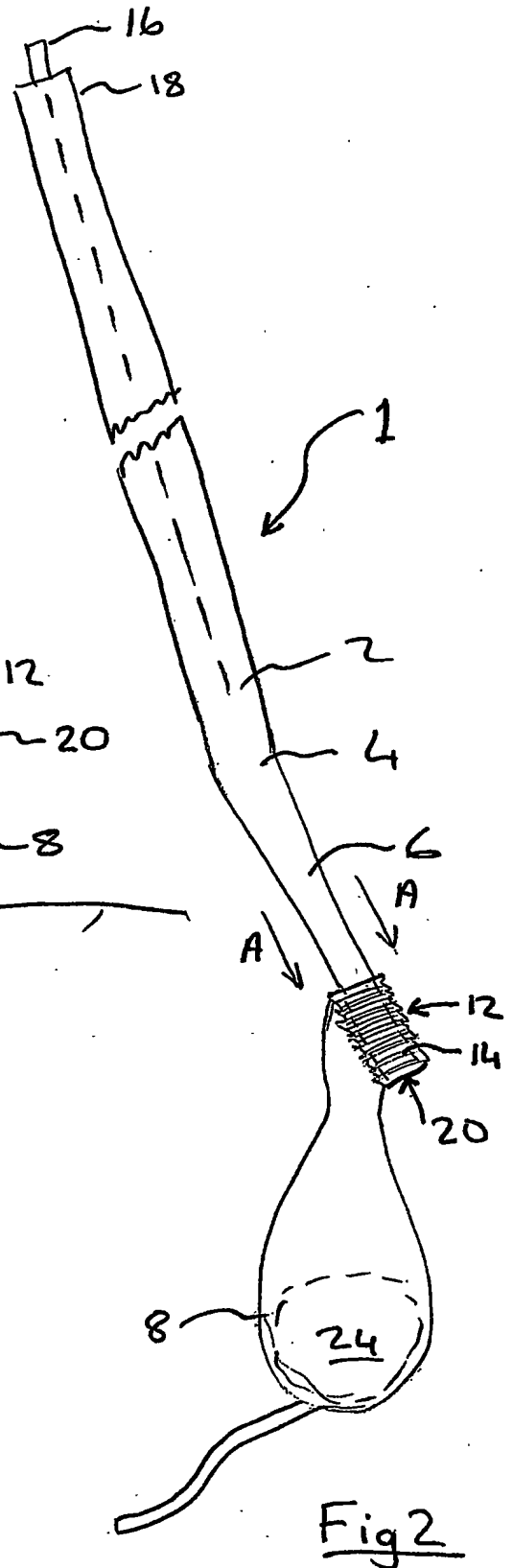


Fig 2